

to 118. This is because the Federal bureaucracy really tries in every way possible to do what it wants regardless of what the majority of the Congress votes for. This might be all right if the Federal bureaucracy did not waste so much money, but the taxpayers are really being ripped off by many Federal programs and especially this wasteful Job Corps program.

The GAO reported in testimony before the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight this past July 29 that only 14 percent of program participants completed the requirements of their vocational training. An earlier report found that only 4 percent end up in jobs for which they were trained, unless one does, as the Job Corps has at times done, and grossly distorts and exaggerates the figures and counts as a success about any former student who has gotten any type of job.

The GAO found that the Department of Labor considered a student to have obtained a job which matched their training if a student was trained as a heavy equipment operator, but got a job as a ticket seller. The Department of Labor also considered it a match if a student was trained as an auto mechanic and obtained a job attaching wristbands to watches.

Mr. Speaker, the Job Corps itself admits that the average length of stay of a Job Corps student is only 6 months. Mark Wilson of the Heritage Foundation has pointed out that it costs more to send someone to the Job Corps for 1 year than to a regular public school for 4 years. It now costs more for a student to go to the Job Corps for 1 year than to go to Yale, Vanderbilt, Emory, and many other of the most expensive and finest colleges and universities in the Nation.

So I repeat, Mr. Speaker, \$26,000 per year per Job Corps student is simply too much, especially since it is producing such extremely poor results. As I said a moment ago, we could give each Job Corps student a \$1,000 a month allowance, send them to some expensive private school, and still save money, and these students would just not believe it. And yet we are giving this money to fat cat government contractors and bureaucrats, who are the real beneficiaries of this program.

We should really do something good for the students and the young people of this country by doing away with the Job Corps program or cutting back drastically on it. And yet, because there are 118 Job Corps centers around the country, I know that that cannot be done unless we start the education process and let people know how poor and wasteful this program really is. I hope we can at least start the process of doing that tonight.

LOW PRICES ARE WRECKING AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY IN OUR COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, this evening I would like to just very briefly discuss with fellow Members some of the things I discovered while traveling in my State of South Dakota over the August recess. It seemed like every place I went in the State, whether it was in the southeastern corner, where we grow corn and soybeans; or whether it was in the wheat producing section, the middle of our State; or whether it was in the ranching area, in western South Dakota, from which I come, the message was the same over and over and over: Low prices are wrecking the agricultural economy in our State and across this country.

It did not matter where I went or what the subject was. We had meetings on Social Security, we had meetings on other subjects through the August recess, but the focus shifted back to the same subject, and that is that low prices are strangling our agricultural producers in South Dakota.

We do have an economic disaster in our State. When we look at where prices are today versus where they have been, the prices are at the lowest levels that we have seen, historically low levels both when it comes to grains and livestock. Fat cattle trading below \$60 a head, or a hundredweight, and hogs trading down in the quarter range per pound.

So we have got just a tremendous problem out there, and it has been complicated this year by a number of factors. And, frankly, I do not think anybody knows that there is a silver bullet that will be one solution that will solve this problem. There are a number of things. We have had a collapse in Asia, the economy there. We have economic problems around the world, from South Korea, to Indonesia, to Thailand, to Malaysia, and that continues to dampen the demand for our agricultural products. And those are some of our biggest trading partners.

Those are things we do not have a lot of control over. To the degree we do, we need to address it by bringing on additional funding for the International Monetary Fund so that we can help stabilize those parts of the world that serve as the biggest customers, the biggest markets for agricultural products.

The other thing we heard over and over and over again is that our people are frustrated. They are disgusted by the fact that we are seeing these trade agreements trampled on that we have agreed to, the issue with Canada in particular and the dumping of wheat. We have seen the laundering of cattle coming in from Australia through Mexico and into our country, and producers are frustrated that the trade agreements that are there, the sanctions that are there, the remedies that are there are not being utilized by our government. I think we have a responsibility to address this.

As a matter of fact, there is a group that has been formed out there called

the R-CALF group, which is a group of ranchers who have decided to take matters into their own hands, and they are going to bring legal action against the International Trade Commission because they do not believe it is doing their job. And I happen to agree with them.

I read in the Wall Street Journal the other day a story about how we are imposing penalties, sanctions, in effect, on Italy because they are dumping wire rods in America. And we have something that is fundamental to the existence of our country, and that is the food that we produce, and we have Canadian cattle coming in across the border and also coming in through Mexico that are being transshipped or laundered across the border, and it is not being addressed. And they are saying that the frustration they are experiencing is causing them to take matters into their own hands.

I think we have a responsibility as a government to sit down in an honest way and challenge and engage these countries in border-to-border discussions to figure out what to do. Our governor, starting Monday, is going to start stopping Canadian trucks at the border of South Dakota to inspect them. That is what we have had to do. We have forced the States to take matters into their own hands.

So I believe this Congress, before we go home this year, as we look at how we can address the problems of agriculture, needs to get its arms around this issue, needs to address some of the concentration issues, the vertical integration that we are seeing in agriculture that really is taking the lifeblood right out of our small producers.

I also believe that our producers, in visiting with them, are hard-working people. They are people who have a history, a tradition, of the family farm. They have been close to the ground. They have a great work ethic. And they can compete with anybody in the world. We have the best technology. We have the finest farming techniques. But what they cannot compete with is the German taxpayer, the French taxpayer or the British taxpayer. We have countries that continue to subsidize their farm economies, and we do not have a level playing field.

This Congress and our government have a responsibility, I believe, to ensure that our producers, those people who are producing food and fiber for this country, can continue to make a living until we do what we need to do, and that is tear down those barriers around the world that are causing our producers to be on an uneven playing field and putting them at a distinct disadvantage, on a level they will never be able to compete.

This is a crisis. It is a very, very serious crisis. And we do not have to go far in agricultural country around the various States, and it is not just my State of South Dakota, we are hearing it all over, in Kansas and Oklahoma and others have been on the floor today discussing that. But if our producers are

going to be able to make a living and to do what they do best, and that is produce the food that feeds our country, that feeds the world, we have to allow them to do it on a level playing field.

We are going to have a meeting tomorrow in the House Committee on Agriculture to discuss what we can do to respond, but one thing is clear, and that is before we adjourn this Congress, we need to respond to the crisis that is out there in a way that will allow our farmers and ranchers to get their legs under them and get back on their feet and make it through this year and on to a better year. And we need to do the job that we have to do, and that is to continue to expand exports and improve trade so they can compete on a level playing field.

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS NATIONAL YOUTH ESSAY COMPETITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUNT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. REDMOND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to read the winning essay in the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Youth Essay Competition. It was written by Heather Hull of Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Heather writes about patriotism, and she says:

Patriotism, to me, is the spirit and soul of a country. It is what keeps a country together not only through war and hardships, but also through victory and triumph. What else could keep a soldier from losing hope in battle, a disheartened country from losing the burning desire to rebuild itself, a nation of divided citizens from dueling each other?

It is patriotism that keeps our love of freedom alive. It is not money or wealth; it is not social acceptance. It is the pure goodwill of every true American that keeps our Nation's dream alive.

Every day we show our patriotism in large and small ways: by proudly saluting the flag, by saying the Pledge of Allegiance, by celebrating the Fourth of July with its bursts of fireworks. Americans show their patriotism when soldiers give their lives serving our country and when citizens cast a vote in support of a candidate whose ideals represent their own.

Behind our many freedoms, including the freedoms of speech and religion, stand all the men and women who, through dedication to their dreams and perseverance, through their struggles, have made so many opportunities ours. Although we may only recognize their sacrifices and suffering on certain holidays such as Memorial Day and Veterans Day, their legacy is all around us every day. In every military cemetery, the gravestones there represent hundreds of other patriots who have served our country and who continue to do so.

To me, patriotism is a kind of heroism. When I saw my face reflected in the shiny granite of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, The Wall, in Washington D.C., I was reminded of the valor of those whose names are etched there and of the courage of their loved ones.

We Americans have always shown patriotism by honoring our values and by envisioning freedoms for all. To me, patriotism is the optimistic spirit and the deep-rooted soul of our country, the United States of America.

I would like to thank Heather Hull of Los Alamos, New Mexico, for allowing me the honor of reading her essay on patriotism in this time of need for our Nation. Thank you, Heather.

SEEKING SOLUTIONS ON BEHALF OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the gentleman from South Dakota and the gentleman from Oklahoma to talk about what we heard in the farm belt during our August recess.

I used the 4 weeks of August and early September to travel the 66 counties of the First District of Kansas, holding 66 town hall meetings; and at every stop, the primary concern of the folks who came to see their Congressman was the price of farm commodities, the price of oil and gas. Everything that we produce and raise in our State has depressed prices; it has significant impact upon the people of our State, the people of this region, and now the people of the country.

The stories were sad. I can remember the past president of the State Future Farmers of America who has had every intention of returning to the family farm, but now cannot see how that can be done with the current state of agricultural economics. We need that next generation to be able to afford the ability to return to the family farm and to provide food and fiber to this country.

I can envision at the other end the senior citizen, the senior farmer, the wife, the spouse who comes with tears and a choked voice to say, "Congressman, what can my husband and I do to keep our family farm? We have fought this fight for over 30 years and we cannot afford to do so any longer."

And I think it is accurate to say that many farmers who have fought the fight in the past will decide that they no longer can afford to do so, and as a result, we will see more farms on the market, we will see larger farms, we will see fewer family farms, and we will see great difficulties in rural communities across the State of Kansas and across the country.

This has significant impact on not just farmers and ranchers, but on all Kansans and upon all Americans. In my State alone, revenue from the wheat crop and the tremendous harvest we have had 2 years in a row, this is not because of lack of production but this is because of a dramatic decline in the price of foreign commodities. In Kansas alone we see \$750 million less in revenue to farmers as a result of the price of wheat, \$190 million less in revenue to farmers in Kansas because of

the reduction in the price of corn, a \$290 million reduction in the State of Kansas to family farmers because of reduction in the grain sorghum price.

Soybeans reduce farm income another \$250 million in the State of Kansas. And cattle revenues are down over \$400 million this year alone.

And when we add that to the oil and gas economy of my State, another reduction of \$260 million, we are talking about a reduction in farm and rural income of more than \$2 billion in 1 year alone.

Mr. Speaker, these issues matter to the survival of not only the farmer but the small towns of the State of Kansas. It is a story to be told by the grocery store clerk, by the car dealer, by the implement dealer. All of us are impacted, and ultimately we pay a tremendous price as Americans in our food supplies.

So tonight I rise to ask for assistance from my urban colleagues, from my colleagues from other rural States, from Republicans and Democrats, to see if in the remaining days of the 1998 session of Congress, if we cannot come together to seek solutions, to preserve a way of life and to fight on behalf of the cattleman and the farmer across the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity of raising this issue and joining my colleagues in seeking solutions on behalf of American agriculture.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR
OF H.R. 4006

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 4006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

FARM CRISIS IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak also on this farm crisis.

I represent coastal Georgia, 18 southeast Georgia counties. But to the entire State of Georgia, the farm crisis has been devastating. The coastal area that I represent, Savannah, Brunswick, and Hinesville, often get hit by hurricanes. And when they get hit by hurricanes, it is easy to get FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Association, to come in, or GEMA, the Georgia Emergency Management Association, people to come in; because we have visual images, trees that have crashed through the roofs of houses, people who have lost their homes, businesses that are wiped out and then have power shortages for days at a time or refrigeration equipment that closes down and a product that goes rotten. They have boats that have been washed ashore and landed on Main Street.

We have that kind of visual image when a hurricane hits, and so it is a little bit easier to get help. People come